

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for a customer to evaluate performance a supplier, the supplier including at least one of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider, the method comprising:

receiving a first evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by a team member of a customer of the supplier into a customer website, the first evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team member with the supplier;

receiving a second evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by a team leader of the customer into a customer website, the second evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team leader with the supplier;

receiving a third evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by the supplier into a customer website, the supplier being part of an organization that is external to the customer;

storing the first evaluation, the second evaluation and the third evaluation in a computer readable media; and

generating an indicia of a supplier's performance based on the first, second and third evaluation, the supplier being chosen from a group consisting of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider, the indicia being stored on a computer readable media.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

generating and providing a report representing the indicia of the supplier's performance.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

providing access for the supplier to view electronically the indicia of the supplier's performance.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

providing access for the supplier to view electronically an indicia of the performance of all suppliers of a class of components.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

communicating an indicia of the performance of the supplier to members of a manufacturing organization.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

analyzing the performance of a supplier based on the performance of the best supplier in the class of suppliers.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

analyzing the performance of a supplier based on improvements required by a manufacturer.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

agreeing to future performance targets.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for evaluating a supplier, the supplier including at least one of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider, comprising;

a computer system, the computer system including a computer program product encoded in computer readable media, the computer program operable to:

receive a first evaluation of a supplier submitted by a team member of a customer of the supplier, the first evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team member with the supplier;

receive a second evaluation of the supplier submitted by a team leader of the customer, the second evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team leader with the supplier;

receive a third evaluation of the supplier submitted by the supplier, the supplier being part of an organization that is external to the customer; and
store the first evaluation, the second evaluation and the third evaluation in a computer readable media;

generate an indicia of the supplier's performance based on the first, second and third evaluation; and,
store the indicia in a computer readable media.

10. (Original) The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the computer system is configured to communicate over a network and to receive evaluations submitted from a second computer system across the network.

11. (Original) The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the network is a public global communication network.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product encoded in computer readable media, the computer program product comprising:

instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to:

receive a first evaluation of a supplier submitted electronically by a team member of a customer of the supplier, the first evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team member with the supplier;

receive a second evaluation of a supplier submitted electronically by a team leader of the customer, the second evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team leader with the supplier;

receive a third evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by the supplier, the supplier being part of an organization that is external to the customer;
~~and~~

store the first evaluation, the second evaluation and the third evaluation in a computer readable media;

generate an indicia of the performance of the supplier based upon the first, second and third evaluations, the supplier being chosen from a group consisting of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider; and,
store the indicia in a computer readable media.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating a supplier, the supplier being part of an organization that is external to a customer, comprising:

a computer system, the computer system including a data storage device, the data storage device storing data for a supplier performance among suppliers supplying a class of components, comprising:

data representing quality of components supplied by each supplier;

data representing cost of components supplied by each supplier;

data representing availability of the components from each supplier;

data representing service performance of each supplier; and

data representing a top performing vendor among the suppliers supplying the class of components, the supplier being chosen from a group consisting of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider.

16. (Original) The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
a server, wherein the computer system and the server are configured to communicate over
a network and receive evaluations submitted from a second computer system
across the network.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating the performance of a supplier, the
supplier being part of an organization that is external to a customer, the performance of the
supplier determined from at least one of a group, comprising:

determining a best supplier in the class of suppliers, wherein the class of suppliers are
those suppliers supplying a component to a manufacturer, the determining being
performed by a computer system, the supplier being chosen from a group
consisting of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler
assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
determining an indicia of quality of a component supplied by the supplier to the
manufacturer.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
determining a cost of a component provider by a supplier.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
determining an indicia of availability of components supplied by a supplier.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of evaluating the
performance of a supplier, the supplier being part of an organization that is external to a
customer, the performance of the supplier determined from at least one of a group consisting of a
manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a
service provider, the method comprising:

receiving a first evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by a team member of
a customer of the supplier, the first evaluation being based upon at least one
experience of the team member with the supplier;

receiving a second evaluation of the supplier submitted electronically by a team leader of the customer, the second evaluation being based upon at least one experience of the team leader with the supplier; and
storing the first evaluation and the second evaluation in a computer readable media;
generating an indicia of a supplier's performance based on the first and second evaluation, the supplier being chosen from a group consisting of a manufacturer manufacturing a component, an assembler assembling a component, a vendor and a service provider; and,
storing the indicia in the computer readable media.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:
communicating an indicia of the performance of the supplier to members of a manufacturing organization.